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Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.33

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 6 of draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.33, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions on the situation of human rights, the transition to democracy and the national reconciliation process with the Government and the people of Myanmar, including democracy and human rights groups and all relevant parties, and to offer technical assistance to the Government in that regard;

(b) To give all necessary assistance to enable his Special Adviser and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar to discharge their mandates fully and effectively and in a coordinated manner;

(c) To report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session as well as to the Human Rights Council on the progress made in the implementation of that resolution.

II. Relationship of the proposed requests to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009

2. The foregoing requests relate to subprogramme 1, Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts, of programme 2, Political affairs, and subprogramme 3,

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Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities, and subprogramme 4, Support for human rights thematic fact-finding procedures, of programme 19, Human rights, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009.[1]

III. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

3. In his report to the General Assembly (A/63/356), the Secretary-General indicated that further efforts had been made to engage the Myanmar authorities, opposition groups and domestic stakeholders, as well as key interested Member States, in support of his good offices mission. In this engagement, the role of the United Nations is to ascertain the positions of all parties and facilitate their efforts to work together through dialogue towards a mutually acceptable process of national reconciliation and democratization. Following the official announcement of the adoption of a new Constitution, the Government of Myanmar has expressed its determination to proceed with multiparty elections by 2010, the fifth step in its seven-step road map. The Secretary-General and his Special Adviser have consistently emphasized that only a credible and inclusive political process based on mutual understanding and compromise by all stakeholders can help to advance the prospects of durable peace, national reconciliation, democracy and respect for human rights in Myanmar.

4. The Secretary-General welcomes the stated commitment of the Government of Myanmar to cooperate with his good offices in the implementation of relevant General Assembly resolutions. In that context, he urges the Government of Myanmar to take meaningful steps with tangible results in response to the concerns and expectations of the United Nations and the international community in the context of the good offices process, in particular with regard to the release of political prisoners and meaningful dialogue with all relevant stakeholders.

5. The Secretary-General is thus committed to making every effort to steer Myanmar towards national reconciliation, the transition to democracy and full respect for human rights as the necessary foundations for long-term stability and prosperity. He welcomes the constructive role played by the neighbours of Myanmar and by the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and encourages the continuation of such efforts.

6. Consistent with the requests contained in operative paragraph 6 of draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.33, the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General would be continued in 2009, in pursuit of his discussions on the situation of human rights and the restoration of democracy with the Government and the people of Myanmar, as well as all relevant parties to the national reconciliation process. The efforts of his good offices would be carried out through his Special Envoy and his team. The progress made in the implementation of the resolution would be reported to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.

IV. Estimated resource requirements

7. The estimated costs of continuing the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General to facilitate the process of national reconciliation and

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/61/6/Rev.1).

democratization through his Special Envoy for Myanmar, as requested in operative paragraph 6 (a), (b) and (c) of draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.33, for a one-year period, from 1 January to 31 December 2009, amount to $753,200 net ($837,700 gross).

8. These resources would cover the salaries for the Special Envoy including two support staff (1 P-4 and 1 General Service (Other level)); the official travel of the Special Envoy to Myanmar, neighbouring countries in the region, Europe and North America; and miscellaneous services in support of his mission. Other substantive and administrative support to the Special Envoy would be provided by the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

9. With regard to the request contained in the last part of operative paragraph 6 (a), concerning technical assistance, such assistance, if requested, would be accommodated within the technical cooperation activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. As to the request contained in operative paragraph 6 (b), pertaining to the Special Rapporteur, the Secretary-General in his statement of programme budget implications (see A/HRC/7/78, part two, annex II) had informed the Human Rights Council, prior to its adoption of resolution 7/32,[2] that the estimated requirements of $72,200 per annum or $144,400 per biennium required to implement the activities of the Special Rapporteur would be provided under section 23, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.[3] The Secretary-General would also inform the General Assembly of these estimated requirements in his report on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council at its seventh and eighth sessions in 2008.

10. No additional resources are requested under Section 23, Human rights, at this juncture.

V. Summary

11. **Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.33, additional requirements amounting to $753,200 net ($837,700 gross) would be required for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2009, under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, for the continuation of the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General relating to the situation in Myanmar. Appropriations for these requirements would be sought in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/63/346/Add.1 and Corr.1) that is being submitted to the Assembly during its current session.**

[2] Ibid., *Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/63/53), chap. II, sect. A.

[3] Ibid., *Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/62/6/Add.1).